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AUTHOR	Barber, Nigel
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ABSTRACT

There has been a recent academic controversy over whether parental child-rearing has any real effect on how offspring turn out. This book is a comprehensive collection of the experimental evidence establishing that parental treatment does affect child outcomes. Also included are natural experiments, as in the case of children raised in intellectually and emotionally impoverished circumstances in orphanages. The chapters of the book are as follows: (1) "The Big Picture: Societal Differences in Parenting"; (2) "Higher Parental Investment and Its Outcomes"; (3) "Lower Parental Investment and Social Problems"; (4) "Divorce and Parental Investment"; (5) "Sibling Competition as a Tragedy of the Commons"; (6) "Money and Parental Investment"; (7) "Nine to Five: The Influence of Occupational Trends on Parental Investment"; (8) "Teen Mothers and Reduced Parental Investment"; (9) "Group Differences in Child Socialization"; (10) "Can You Increase Parental Investment?"; and (11) "Can High Parental Investment Produce a Civil and Enlightened Society?" The book's appendix assembles some of the arguments that have been used in the technical literature or heard in popular debate that seem to challenge the important role of parental behavior in affecting how children turn out. (Contains extensive notes, organized by chapter.) (HTH)

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